third means for, in cases where the second means decides that a radio response to the radio signal is received, judging that there is an ETC vehicle incoming; and

fourth means for, in cases where the vehicle sensor detects a vehicle while the second means decides that a radio response to the radio signal is not received, judging that there is a non-ETC vehicle incoming.

6. (Amended) An ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system, comprising:

an antenna;

transceiver means working cooperatively with said antenna for outputting a radio signal at a given rating level to cover a limited radio-communication service zone;

a vehicle sensor preceded by said antenna by a predetermined interval for detecting whether a vehicle has reached a predetermined position in said limited radio-communication zone;

said transceiver means further working cooperatively with said antenna for detecting radio response to said radio signal from each vehicle detected by said vehicle sensor within said radio-communication zone; and

processor means for deciding a vehicle that has been detected by said vehicle sensor in said radio-communication zone is a non-ETC vehicle if no radio response to said radio signal is detected from said vehicle.

Remarks

The following is in response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2002.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 5-7 were rejected under newly cited Chiappetti U.S. patent 4,338,587.